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June 1, 2001

Re: Medical Use of Opiate Analgesics

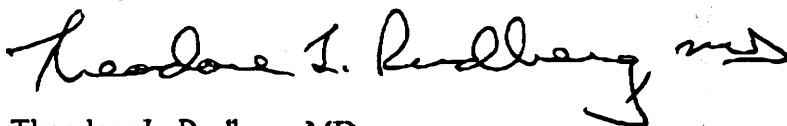
Dear Ms. Topper:

As a board-certified family physician, I have over twenty years of medical experience treating the elderly in office, nursing home, and hospice settings. I have found the use of extended-release opiate analgesics for maintenance pain relief combined with immediate-release opiate analgesics being used to treat break-through pain to be very efficacious. In addition, when used properly, I have found that this combination of analgesics to be well-tolerated and with few side effects for my geriatric patients.

I agree that the abuse potential of opiate analgesics is a major public health concern. However, restrictions on the use of these opiate analgesics would be a major set-back in treating pain in my elderly and hospice patients.

Thank you for your attention and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Theodore L. Rudberg MD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the "MD" written in a slightly larger, more distinct script at the end.

Theodore L. Rudberg, MD